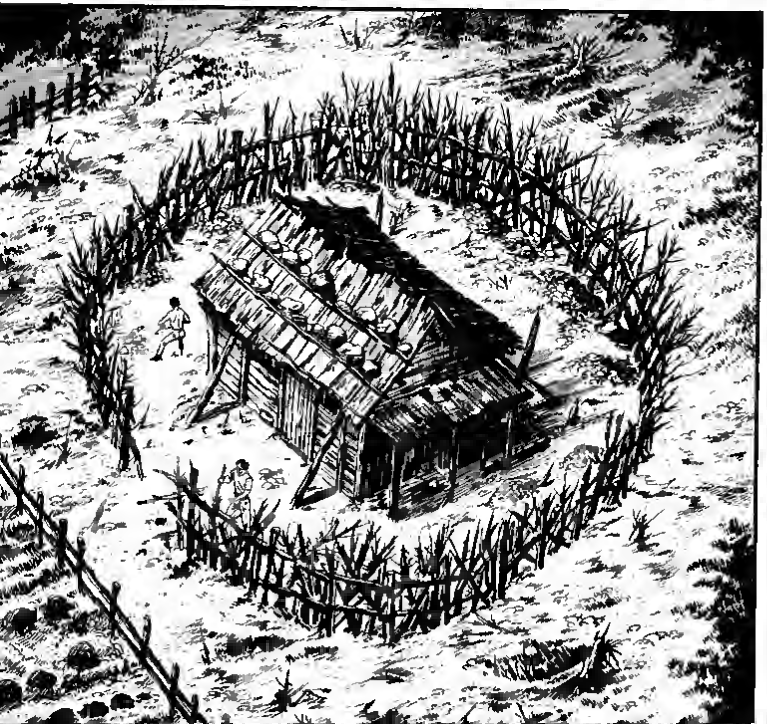
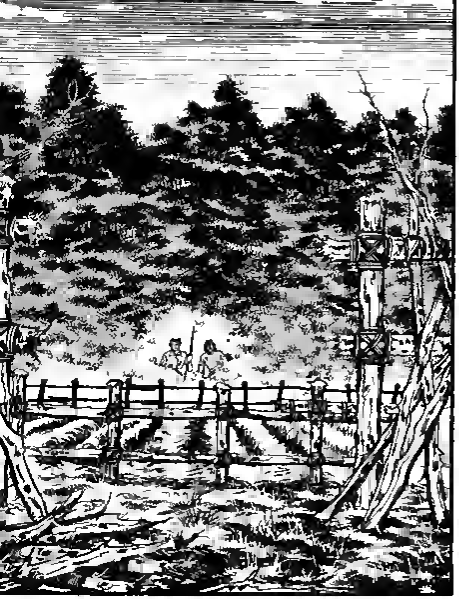
SURVIVAL

Danger 12

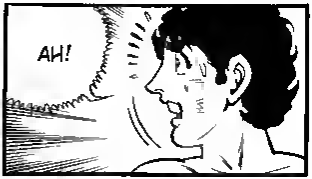
THEIR ENEMIES HAD SAID THEY WOULD BE COMING TO ATTACK THREE DAYS LATER. THE FIRST DAY HAD ALREADY PASSED, AND IT WOULD SOON BE DUSK ON THE SECOND.

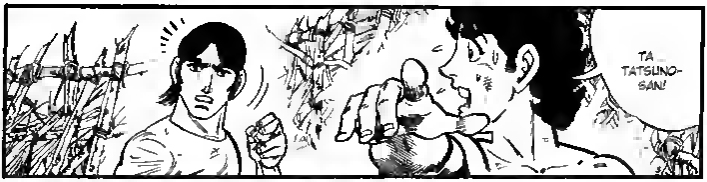


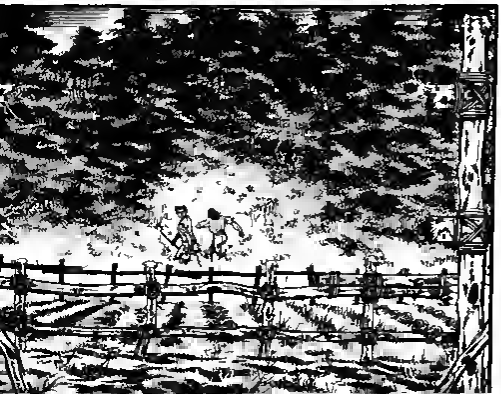
...
IF THEY HAD A GUN NOW IT'D BE AS EFFECTIVE AS AN ATOMIC BOMB!
MM... I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT. IT'LL PROBABLY JUST BE STICKS AND ROCKS... THOUGH THEY MIGHT'VE MADE SOME BOWS AND ARROWS...
WHAT ABOUT ANY WEAPONS THEY MIGHT HAVE?
IF THEY HAD ONE THEY'D HAVE PROBABLY THREATENED US WITH IT FROM THE START...
OF COURSE. IF THEY HAD ONE OUR DEFEAT WOULD BE ASSURED! HOWEVER, THERE'S NO REASON TO FEAR...
THEY PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TOO SOPHISTICATED THOUGH...
WE'LL BE FIGHTING THEM OFF WITH STONES...
...
AH TRUE TRUE!
I'VE FAITH IN MY CONTROL.
IN PRIMITIVE WARFARE THEY'LL BE OUR COOPERATIVE CANNONBALLS! BESIDES, WHEN IT COMES TO THROWING THINGS I'M A PRO!



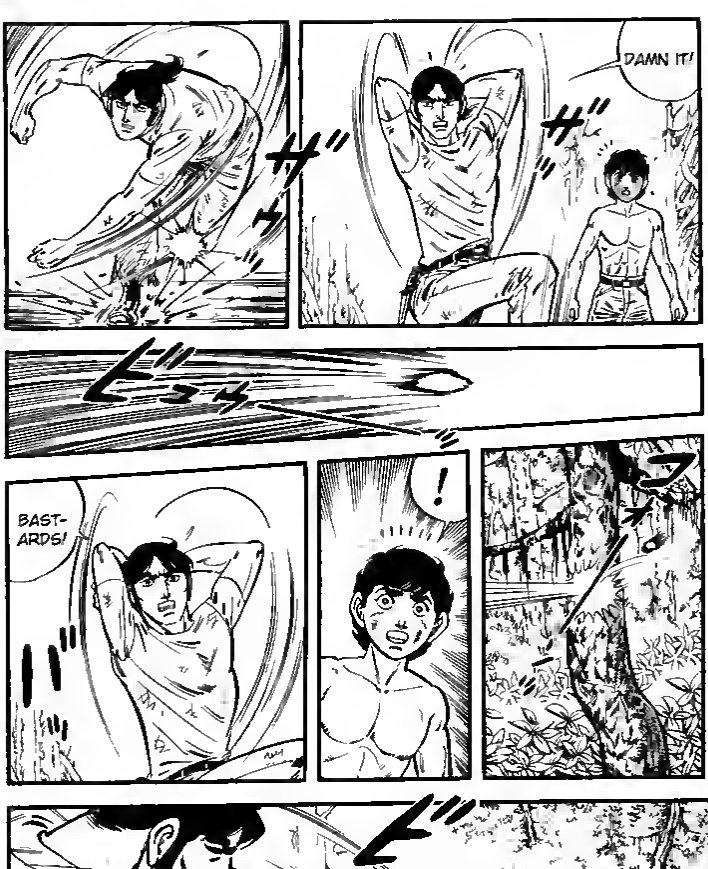
I'LL SHOW YOU

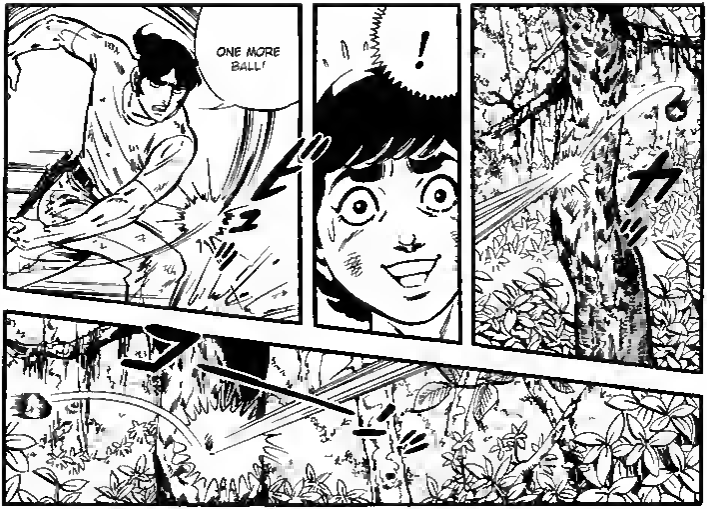

AH!


TA TATSUNO-SAN!



...
SO THE BASTARDS SENT SOME SPIES!


DAMN IT!
BAST-
ARDS!
!


ONE MORE BALL!
!

Y... YOU'RE FAR MORE ACCURATE THAN THE ENEMY'S WILL BE WITH THEIR BOWS!
WELL WHO KNOWS...

W... WOAH!

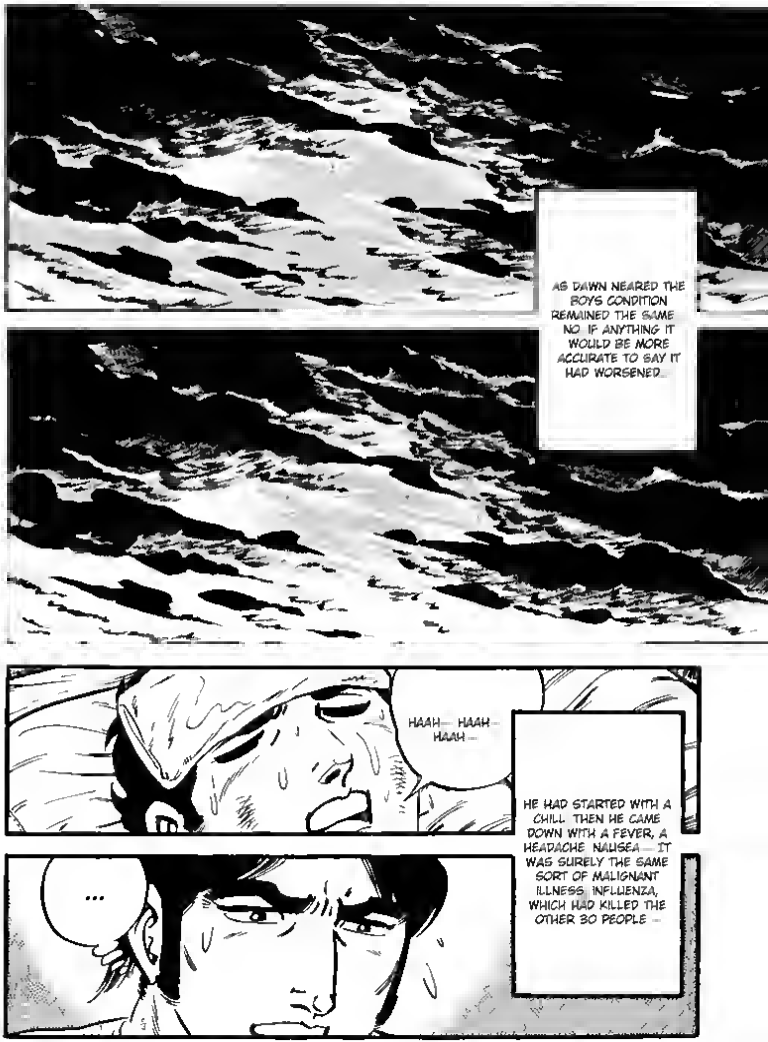
STRIKE OUT!

...
WHO KNOWS HOW LONG... MY LEFT ARM WILL HOLD OUT FOR...
AT ANY RATE THERE'LL BE LOTS OF THEM!

...

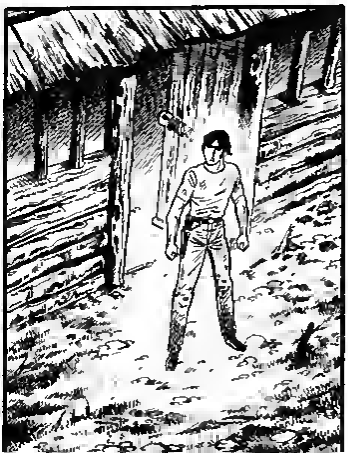
AREN'T YOU SLEEPING THEN, TATSUNO-SAN?
CAN'T SLEEP?
WHAT'S WRONG...?
...
THEY MAY'VE BEEN PLOTTING A SNEAK ATTACK...
MM, I FIGURED I'D STAY ON WATCH A LITTLE LONGER. THEY SEEMED LIKE THE LOT WHO MIGHT TRY SOMETHING
?
!
I SUDDENLY FELT REALLY COLD... AND I'VE A POUNDING IN MY HEAD...
YOU SEEM OFF?!
WHAT'S WRONG SATORU?!

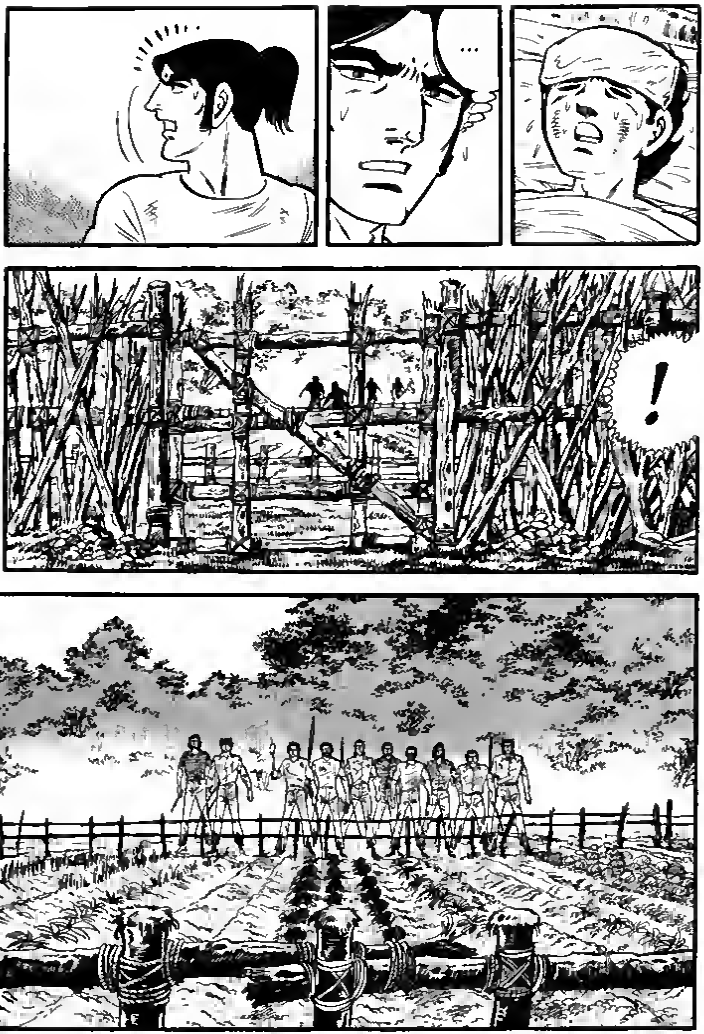
WHAT'S THIS. YOU'VE A TERRIBLE FEVER!
HMM?!
COOUGH
SORRY COUGH, COUGH...
I'LL PREPARE YOU SOME HERBS FOR YOUR FEVER AT ONCE! AFTER YOU'VE DRUNK IT GET SOME REST...
...
フー フー

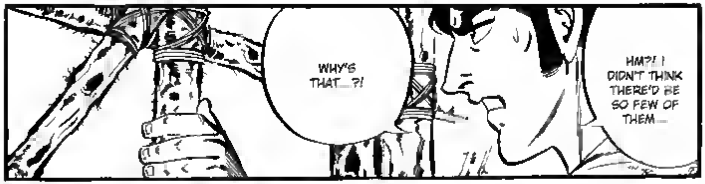

AS DAWN NEARED THE BOYS CONDITION REMAINED THE SAME NO. IF ANYTHING IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY IT HAD WORSENED...
HAAH— HAAH— HAAH—
HE HAD STARTED WITH A CHILL. THEN HE CAME DOWN WITH A FEVER, A HEADACHE. NAUSEA— IT WAS SURELY THE SAME SORT OF MALIGNANT ILLNESS. INFLUENZA, WHICH HAD KILLED THE OTHER 30 PEOPLE —
...

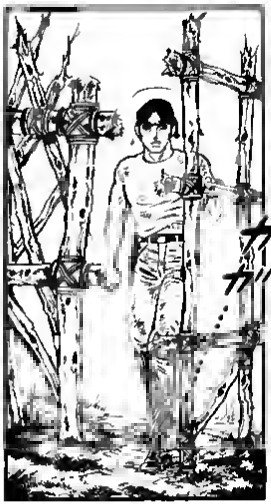
I... I'M SORRY FOR BEING A BURDEN...
NO NEED TO WORRY. IF WORST COMES TO IT I'LL CARRY YOU OUT OF HERE
UH UH... IT... IT'LL SOON BE DAWN... THE... THEY'LL BE ATTACKING...
A... ALRIGHT...
WE'VE STILL PLENTY OF TIME TILL TOMORROW MORNING!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
...
HAAH... HAAH...

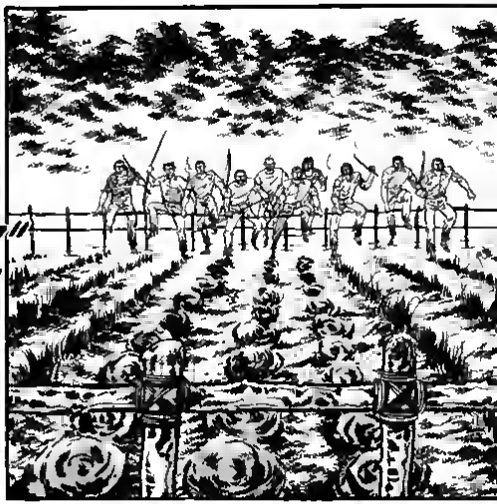
カァ
カァ



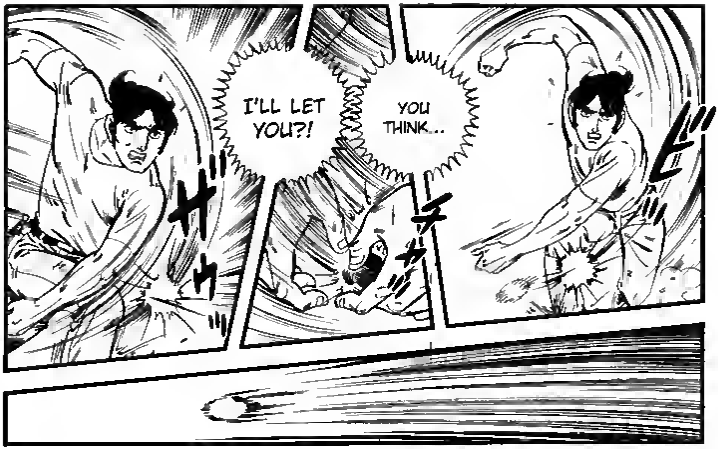



WHY'S THAT...?!
HM?! I DIDN'T THINK THERE'D BE SO FEW OF THEM...


ガ"
ガ"

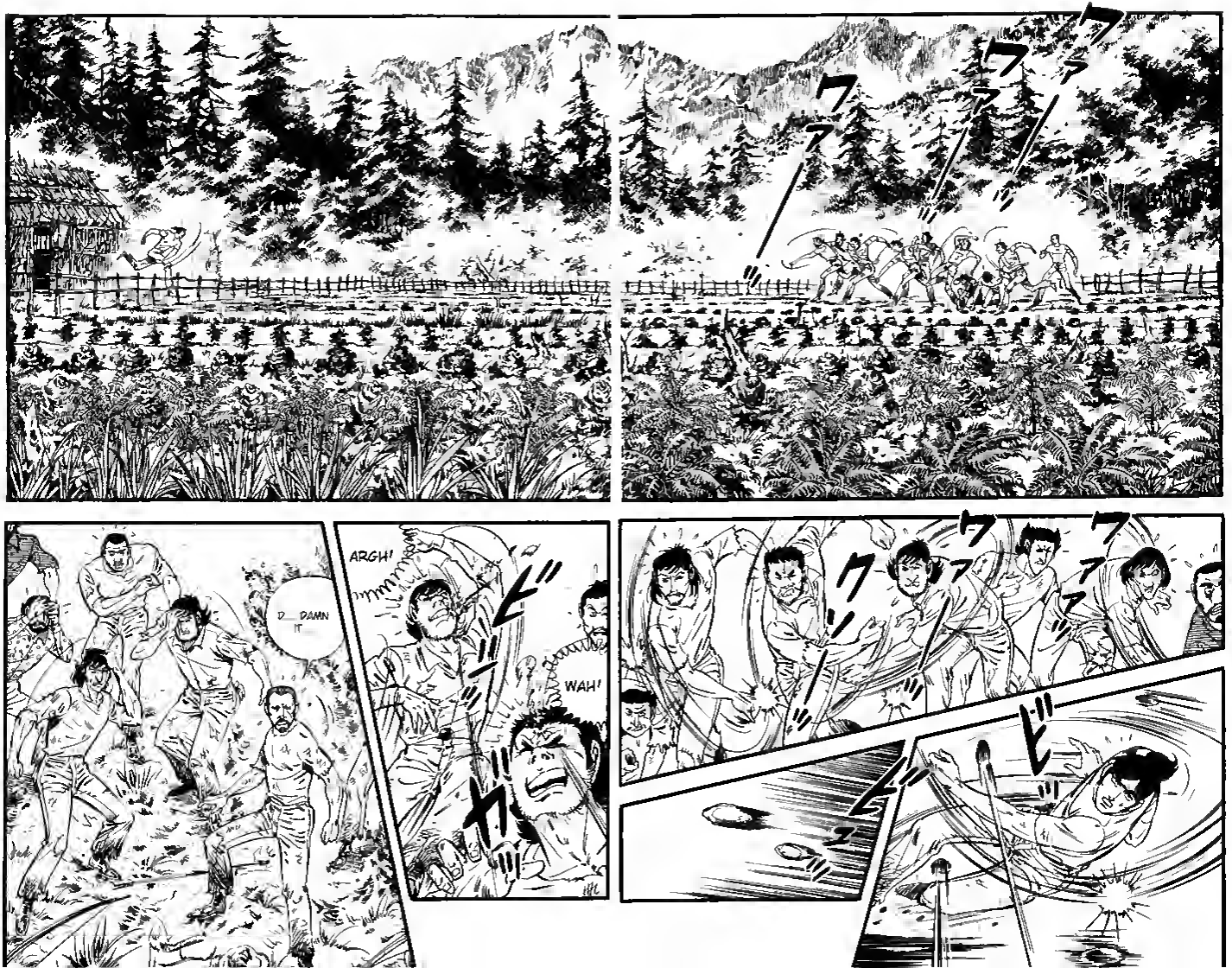


WILL YOU RELINQUISH THE LAND?!
I'LL ASK YOU ONCE MORE!
I REFUSE!
IT'S UNAVOIDABLE THEN...
...
キキ
ク
ク
ッ!


I'LL LET YOU?!
YOU THINK...

WAH!
ARGH!
!

EAT THIS!
S... SHIT!
ARGH!
THROW SOME ROCKS TOO!
ROCKS!
AAARGH!
FUUUCK!


ワ
ワア
ワア
ARGH!
D... DAMN IT
WAH!
ワア
ワア
クソ
ビッ
ビッ

I... I HAVE TO FIGHT...!
ヨロ ヨロ……
I'LL... I'LL FIGHT!
AH!
OUCH!
F... FULL BACK!
FULL BACK!

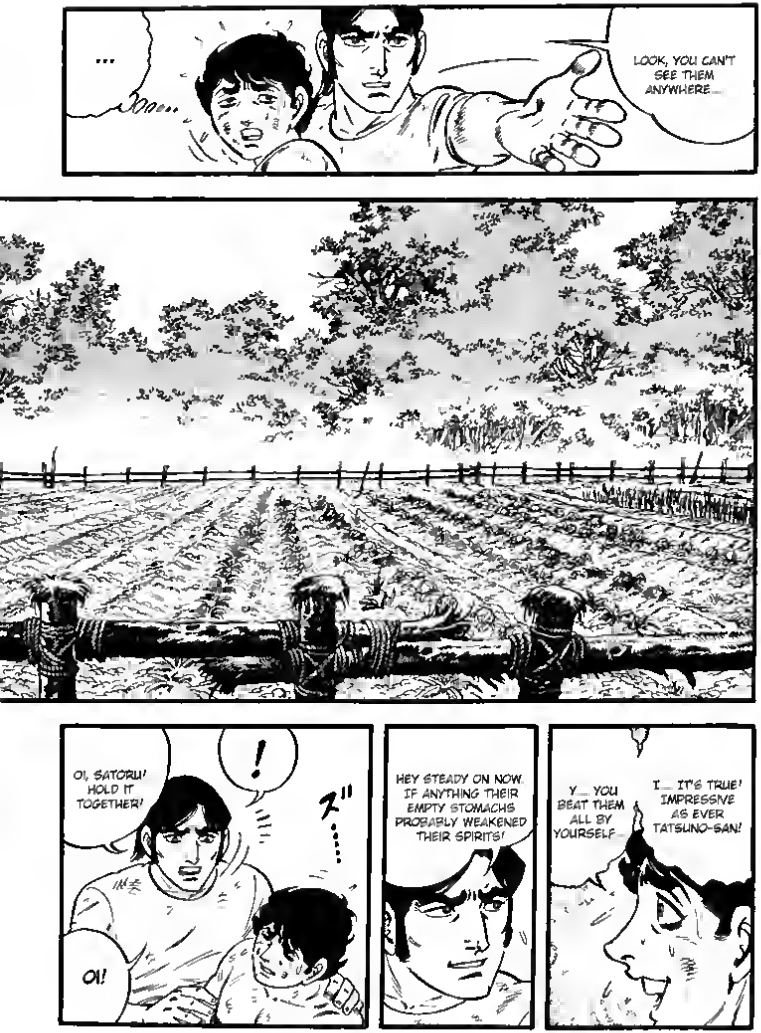
!

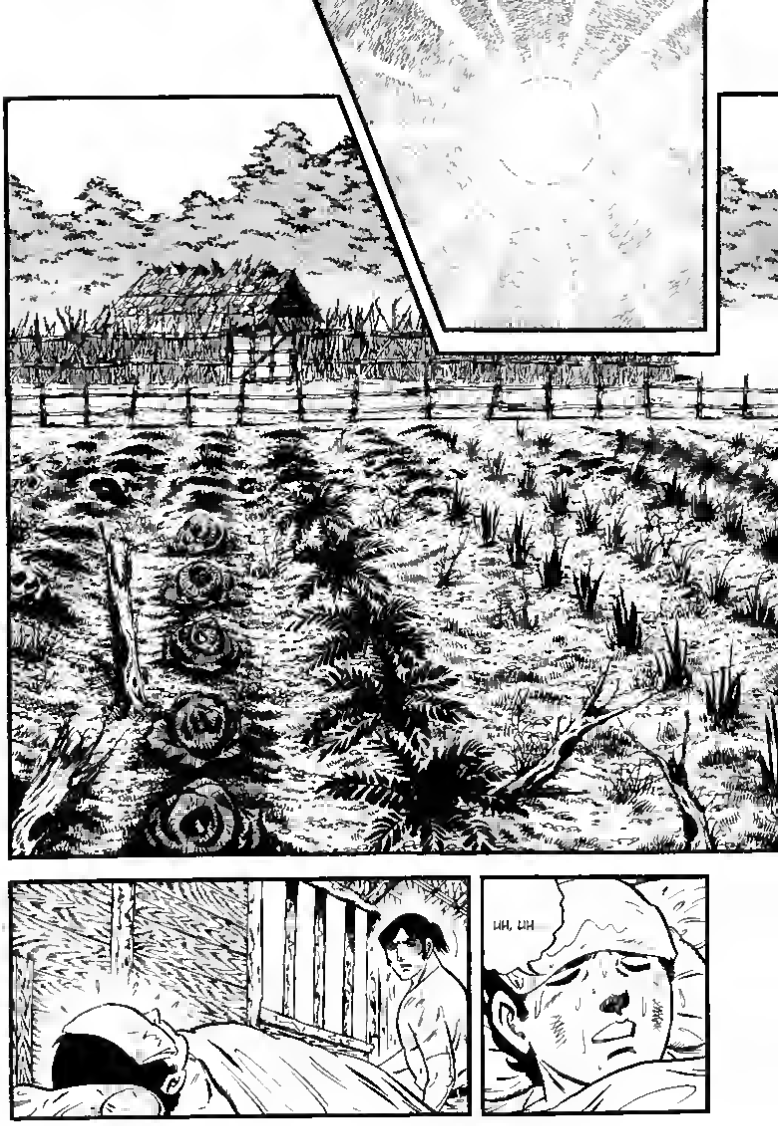
EVEN IF I WAS THROWING STONES THEY COULD'VE MADE IT TO ME EVENTUALLY!
THEY REALLY MUST BE STARVING!
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOT?! THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY FIGHTING SPIRIT AT ALL?!

SATORU...!
!
ヨロ……ヨロ……

ファ——
?!

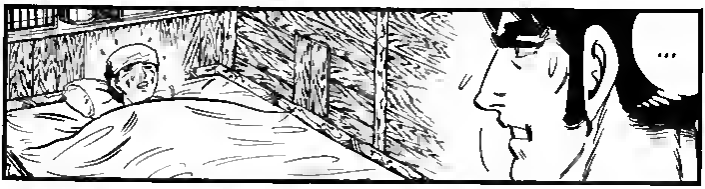
ドサ
!
I... I'LL FIGHT TOO!
THEY FLED
THEY'RE ALREADY GONE...
WH... WHAT'S THAT?! WHY?! THA... THAT CAN'T BE...
EH?!
YOU'RE REALLY FAR TOO RASH! YOU SHOULDN'T BE MOVING WITH THIS HIGH FEVER!
HANG IN THERE SATORU!
WH... WHAT ABOUT THE ENEMIES?! DID THEY ATTACK?!


...
LOOK, YOU CAN'T SEE THEM ANYWHERE...
OI, SATORU! HOLD IT TOGETHER!
!
ズ"....
OI!
HEY STEADY ON NOW. IF ANYTHING THEIR EMPTY STOMACHS PROBABLY WEAKENED THEIR SPIRITS!
Y... YOU BEAT THEM ALL BY YOURSELF...
I... IT'S TRUE! IMPRESSIVE AS EVER TATSUNO-SAN!

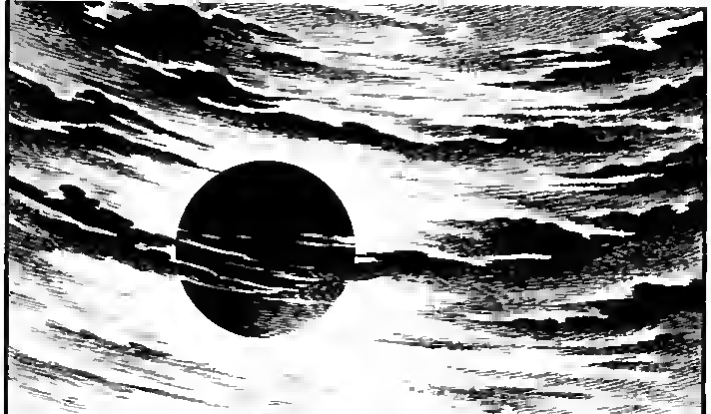

UH, UH

HOW WILL THEY ATTACK NEXT?
THEM FLEEING IN THE FIRST ROUND REALLY HELPED US OUT BUT...

I IMAGINE THAT NEXT TIME THEY'LL PUT IN FAR MORE...
EFFORT...
THEY PROBABLY THOUGHT THAT WITH ONLY TWO PEOPLE HERE IT'D BE A CAKE WALK... NOW THAT THEY KNOW ABOUT MY ROCK THROWING SKILLS THOUGH...


...

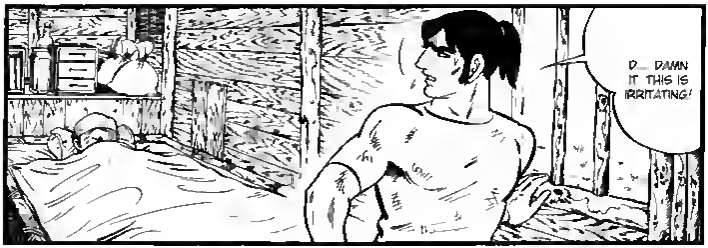
NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T LET SATORU DIE... IT'S ANNOYING BUT I MAY WELL HAVE TO RAISE THE WHITE FLAG HERE... DAMN IT!



!

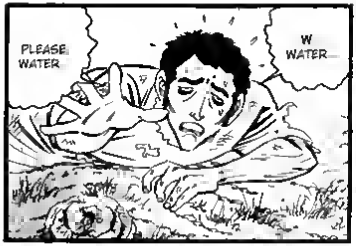
THE BASTARDS CAME!

THEY MUST BE MAKING SOME SORT OF ULTIMATUM!


D... DAMN IT. THIS IS IRRITATING!

NOTHING ELSE FOR IT...!
...

フラ
フラ
フラ
ヨロ…
?
HM?!
H HELP US
フラァ……
ヨロ
?!
?!
PLEASE HELP US…!


PLEASE, WATER
W WATER...

!

TERRIBLE FEVER!
WH... WHAT A...

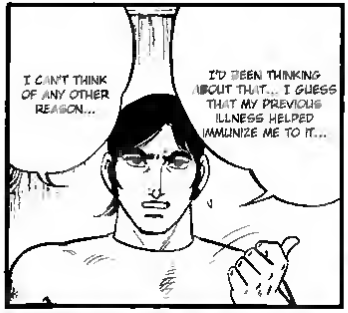
WHAT'S WRONG?! WHAT ON EARTH S WRONG WITH YOU!?

W... WATER
ガク
INFLUENZA TOO!
I... I GET IT! THIS LOT HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY...

TH... THEY'RE ALL SUFFERING WITH... TERRIBLE FEVERS. THE KIDS WOMEN TOO...
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS...?!
...
Y... YET THE FEVER'S MAKING US DIZZY...
ALREADY MANY HAVE DIED... WE FIGURED THAT COME MORNING, WE'D SEND WHOEVER COULD MOVE HERE...
COUGH COOOUGH...
I GUESS THIS MAY WELL BE... YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR STEALING THE CROPS...
...
UNFORTUNATELY NOT...
D... DO YOU... HAVE ANY MEDICINE?
COUGH, COUGH
JUST WAIT THERE. I'LL GET YOU SOME WATER.

FROM PAST EXPERIENCE TATSUNO-SAN ALREADY KNEW THAT IT WAS LIKELY TOO LATE FOR THE MEN... IF THEIR MOST ENERGETIC MEMBERS WERE LIKE THIS, THEN IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEIR GROUP DIED OUT ALTOGETHER.

I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE OF THE MEDICINE YOU MADE ME TATSUNO-SAN!
SOMEWHAT, I IMAGINE MY PAST EXPERIENCE WITH THE GUYS BEFORE YOU MAY'VE COME IN USEFUL...

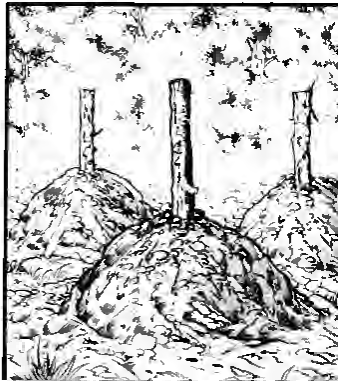


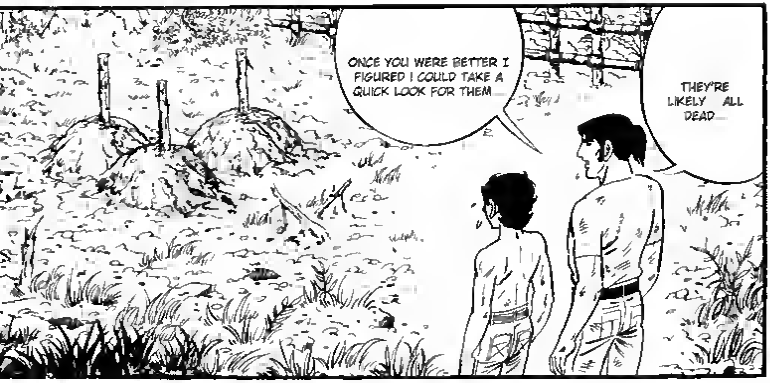
IMMUNISATION IS WHERE IT IS HARDER FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES TO AFFECT THE BODY, NORMALLY CAUSED BY PATHOGENS WHICH HAVE ENTERED THE BODY, THOUGH SOMETIMES IT'S OBTAINED FROM TOXINS. IT FORMS THE CENTRAL THEORY BEHIND VACCINATION

MM...
HOW'S IT LOOK. THINGS ARE ALL BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE...

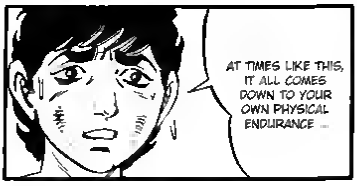
...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS THEY WERE WITH ?

...

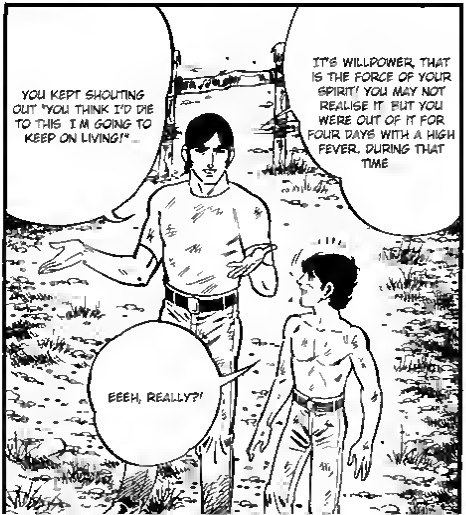



ONCE YOU WERE BETTER I FIGURED I COULD TAKE A QUICK LOOK FOR THEM...
THEY'RE LIKELY ALL DEAD...

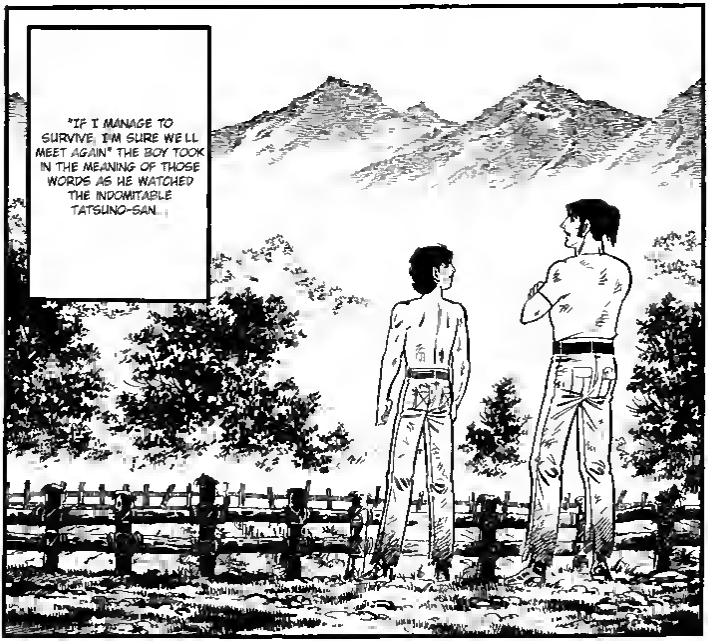
FROM MY EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL ENDURANCE ALONE IS NO GOOD...


AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO YOUR OWN PHYSICAL ENDURANCE...

YOU'D JUST QUIETLY KICK THE BUCKET! HAHAHAHA...
IT'S TRUE! THAT'S WHY I FIGURED THERE WAS NO WAY...


YOU KEPT SHOUTING OUT "YOU THINK I'D DIE TO THIS. I'M GOING TO KEEP ON LIVING!"...
IT'S WILLPOWER, THAT IS THE FORCE OF YOUR SPIRIT! YOU MAY NOT REALISE IT BUT YOU WERE OUT OF IT FOR FOUR DAYS WITH A HIGH FEVER. DURING THAT TIME
EEEH, REALLY?!

THANK YOU TATSUNO-SAN!
EVEN IF YOU'RE BY YOURSELF YOU'VE TRULY GOT "GUTS" SO I KNOW YOU'LL DO FINE...
ONCE YOU'RE ALL BETTER YOU SHOULD GO... AND LOOK FOR THEM...


"IF I MANAGE TO SURVIVE, I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN" THE BOY TOOK IN THE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS AS HE WATCHED THE INDOMITABLE TATSUNO-SAN...

T/N: YOU SHOULD READ THE BONUS VOLUME "SURVIVAL: ANOTHER STORY" PRIOR TO READING THE NEXT CHAPTER.